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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/519,437

05/16/2005

Guoshun Deng

CU-4042 RJS

2475

26530 7590 10/20/2008
LADAS & PARRY LLP
224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 1600
CHICAGO, IL 60604

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THAN VINH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2187

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/20/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/519,437	Applicant(s) DENG ET AL.	
	Examiner Than Nguyen	Art Unit 2187	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/10/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the amendment, filed 7/9/08.
2. The IDS, filed 10/10/08, has been considered.
3. Claims 26-41 are pending.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

4. Applicant has amended the claims. The amended claims are addressed below. All previous objection/rejection not indicated below are withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/7/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. The Examiner maintains the objection to the title of the invention. Applicant's title is too vague and does not clearly summarize the invention. If Applicant is unwilling to change the title to one more fitting (or as suggested by the Examiner), the Examiner will modify it to a more descriptive title upon allowance.
7. Applicant argues the prior art does not teach the power source module being independent. This is not persuasive. The term "independently" means self-governing. In this case, the Examiner interprets the claim to mean that the power source module has the ability to provide/transmit power to the storage apparatus. Hirota teaches the ability to power memory card 109 through the power module/connection Vdd (Fig. 5). Thus, Hirota satisfies this limitation. If Applicant wants to more clearly define the invention, Applicant must further limit the claim.

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8. Applicant argues that Hirota does not teach the information indication module. Applicant should note that the claim (ex. claim 1) does not further define what the information indication module represents. Therefore, the Examiner will use the broadest interpretation available to define it. For purpose of examination, the Examiner broadly interprets this limitation as any element that can store information and/or present data/information (display 103, 203; speaker 106; 9/37-56; Fig. 1-4). If Applicant wants to more clearly define the invention, Applicant must further limit the claim.

9. As to claim 31, Applicant argues that Hirota does not teach at least one of a display component, an acoustic component and a vibration component. Hirota's entire system/apparatus (computer system; Fig. 3-4) reads upon Applicant's semiconductor storage apparatus. Since Hirota teaches a display (103,203) and speaker (106) coupled to the system, this claim's limitations are met.

Specification

10. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Method and Apparatus For Accessing an Encrypted Memory Card.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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12. Claims 26-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

13. As to claim 26, Applicant claims an information indication module but does not describe its function. The name of the claimed element is not commonly used in the art. Thus, one of ordinary skills would not know the function of the claimed information indication module. Therefore, the claim is vague and indefinite.

14. Claims 27-34 are rejected for incorporating the error of claim 26.

15. Claim 35 recites the limitation "indicating **the information**" in line 19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Which information is Applicant referring to.

16. As to claim 35 (line 19) the language "based on **the content of the obtained indication information**" is vague and ambiguous. The indication information is data/information.

Information is the content. What is **the content** of the information mean?

17. Claims 36-41 are rejected for incorporating the error of claim 35.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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19. Claims 26-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirota et al (US 6,606,707).

As to claim 26:

20. Hirota teaches a semiconductor storage apparatus (computer system; Fig. 3-4) for realizing information indication, **comprising**: a power source module providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus (power source VDD; Fig. 5; 10/6-10); a controller module having a firmware for realizing the information indication and data access (command control unit 322; 10/66-11/10); an interface module (interface; USB/ATA/SCSI/network; 8/44; 9/39-42; 12/25-30; Fig. 3-4; a semiconductor storage medium module having a indication information storage region for storing indication information (flash memory 303; Fig. 3-4); and an information indication module (display 103, 203; speaker 106; 9/37-56; Fig. 1-4), wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage medium module, and the information indication module are electrically connected to each other (Fig. 3-5).

As to claim 27:

21. Hirota teaches the firmware supports the password verification of the indication information storage region (password authentication; 8/12-30).

As to claim 28,41:

22. Hirota teaches the indication information storage region is provided with an independent or universal encryption/decryption module, and the encryption/decryption module encrypts the data to be stored in the indication information storage region, and decrypts the data read from the indication information storage region (encryption/decryption circuit 327; 11/50-64).

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As to claim 29:

23. Hirota teaches the interface module is one of a USB interface, IEEE 1394 interface, Bluetooth interface, IrDA infrared interface, HomeRF interface, IEEE802.11a interface, IEEE802.11 b interface, wire wide area/local area network interface, and wireless wide area/local area network interface (USB 215; 8/44; 9/39-42; Fig .3-4; network; 1/54; 16/44).

As to claim 30:

24. Hirota teaches the medium used by the semiconductor storage medium module is one of a flash memory DRAM, EEPROM, SRAM, FRAM, MRAM, and MILLIPEDE (flash memory; 10/6, 18-20).

As to claim 31:

25. Hirota teaches the information indication module comprises at least one of a display component, an acoustic component and a vibration component (display 103, 203; speaker 106; 9/37-56; Fig. 3-4).

As to claim 32:

26. Hirota teaches the display component is one of a liquid crystal display, light-emitting diode matrix display, field emission display and organic-electroluminescence (OEL) display; and the acoustic generating component is one of a speaker, buzzer and crystal acoustic generator (LCD 203; 9/37-40; speaker 106; 9/37-56).

As to claim 33:

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27. Hirota teaches the power source module further comprising: at least one of a voltage adapter circuit (voltage adapter/reducer to operate memory card); and a self-contained power source having a power control switch, wherein the self-contained power source is one of a PV cell, a primary cell, and a rechargeable cell (power source/battery of computer/portable player 203; 8/35-67).

As to claim 34:

28. Hirota teaches a manual control component for setting the information indication, wherein the manual control component is used to perform the manual control of the information indication (generate password; 14/54-55).

As to claim 35:

29. Hirota teaches a method for realizing information indication in a semiconductor storage apparatus (See response to claim 26) comprising a power source module providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus; a controller module having a firmware for realizing the information indication and data access; an interface module; a semiconductor storage medium module having a indication information storage region for storing indication information; and an information indication module, wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage medium module, and the information indication module are electrically connected to each other, the method **comprising**: performing data access operation of the indication information storage region and the information indication (request access); verifying the password of the indication information storage region according to the predetermined setting (authenticate password), and after the step of verifying the password, obtaining the necessary

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indication information from the indication information storage region (encrypt/decrypt data based on authentication); and controlling the information indication module to perform the information indication (display/access data) based on the content of the obtained indication information(request access, authenticate password, encrypt/decrypt data; display/access data; S701-707; S801-809; Fig. 9-10; 11/10-64; 12/21-24;14/39-16/35).

As to claim 36:

30. Hirota teaches writing the necessary indication information into the indication information storage region after verifying the password (write key/password data into authentication area; 12/21-24; 13/24-28; 14/60-65; 15/45-54).

As to claim 37:

31. Hirota teaches the operational mode of the information indication module and the indication information stored in the indication information storage region is defined and modified by the information indication storage region setting software running in the data processing system (data in authentication area defines if access mode is restricted/unrestricted; 12/21-24; 13/24-28; 14/60-65; 15/45-54).

As to claim 38,39,40:

32. Hirota teaches the indication information comprises static information and dynamic information, wherein the static information comprises the user's information, device information and storage information (user information 427; medium ID 341; master key; 425; Fig. 6,9,10).

Conclusion

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33. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Than Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2187

Than Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187